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Sen. Toy amendment to help students displaced by hurricane

LANSING – The Senate today approved an amendment to the state school aid bill sponsored by Senator Laura M. Toy, R-Livonia, that will allow districts to receive funding for enrolling students from other states who have been evacuated to Michigan due to a natural disaster.

“Our nation has suffered a great tragedy,” Toy said. “We must continue to do all we can to help our fellow Americans as they try to rebuild their lives in our state.”

Toy’s amendment will allow the Michigan Department of Education to include affected students who enroll in a district past the normal count date.

Since Proposal A, Michigan school districts are funded on a “per-pupil” basis meaning the amount of funding each district receives is directly related to the number of students enrolled. Under Toy’s amendment, schools will receive funding for displaced students even if they were not enrolled at the time of the fall student count.

“This amendment will help ensure that Michigan schools receive funding to educate displaced students,” Toy said. “After what these children have been through, it is important they are quickly enrolled in school to continue their education and have a sense of stability and belonging.”

The Michigan Department of Education has also sent information to school superintendents throughout the state to facilitate the provision of educational services to any evacuees in need.

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